

The
Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.

NOBISCUM

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School Record.

1926-1927.

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 27.

JULY, 1927.

EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—B. WELLS, L. SMITH, PARTRIDGE i, BAILEY.

Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

So cold was it at first, and with such unsettled weather later, it is difficult to believe that the longest day is past and the Summer Term already nearing an end. One feels somehow defrauded when the calendar says July is here, and yet there have been no glorious hot summer days; and the voice to which we listen nightly grows wearisome in its iteration of the formula, " Further outlook, unsettled ". Does the speaker make that marked pause after the word " outlook " because he realises the depressing effect of his next word upon the spirits of the British Isles?

However, the School's proverbial luck still held for Sports Day, which was fine and more successful than ever. Jackals and Tomtits ran neck and neck for the Sports Shield, the former only just securing it in the Relay Race—the last event. Partridge scored a popular win when he secured the Cup, and Mr. Hall's organisation of the racing was again perfect.

The competitions for the Arts and Crafts Shield—won by the Tomtits—produced, on the whole, work of better quality than in former years, some of it being really excellent; and in this connection we thank very heartily the anonymous friend who has offered annually a small statue of Victory for the one gaining most points in these competitions. It goes this year to Barbara Wells, with a score of 210 points. Sports Day was fittingly concluded with an exhibition of country dances by the girls on the front court.

The following day the Scouts had their expedition to Bath and Cheddar, after which the weather broke down utterly.

More recently we have had the great eclipse expedition to Colwyn Bay, which, though defeated in its main object, was yet successful in showing us what can be done under very adverse circumstances to make the best of things; and

I take this opportunity of thanking those members of the staff who accompanied the party, and did so much to turn chagrin into enjoyment.

Although so far it has not been a pleasant time for cricket, our eleven has done very well. No matches have been scratched, and only one loss has to be recorded. The bowling and fielding have been good, and the batting generally sufficient, though only a few of our team seem to have mastered that fundamental of good batting—the forward stroke.

Two very pleasant tennis matches have been played with teams of Old Scholars, in each case won by them.

Our head girl, Elizabeth Lane, is to be very heartily congratulated on gaining a Scholarship at Westfield College, Hampstead, and also on being awarded a Drapers' Company Scholarship. The results of other scholarship examinations are still awaited at the time of my writing.

The School Certificate and Higher School Certificate Examinations begin very shortly, and at this juncture candidates can do little more than indulge the hope that the papers may suit them individually. They must depend now on the work already done.

I am sure all will regret to learn that Miss Baker is leaving at the end of this term to take up a post in her old school at Brighton. Her place will be filled after the holidays by Miss Mildred Barrett, from the Chelsea Physical Training College.

Another figure, well known to the older boys and girls and to all Old Scholars—Kathleen Perks—will also before long be missing from amongst us. As treasurer, and then as secretary of O.S. Guild, she has shown a whole-hearted devotion to the School and the Guild, and all will agree that the repeated successes of the various O.S. gatherings have been very largely due to her unselfish efforts. She sails in October for New Zealand to swell the small but growing number of Old Scholars beyond the seas, and will take with her the good wishes of all who have known her.

The number of those leaving school at this time of the year is always greater than at other times. Some, if not all of these will have feelings of regret that such a good time is nearly over. Before they go I want to remind them that their future success, in the best sense of that word, is the highest honour they can bring their School. I should like them to be known, as they go their various ways, for their unfailing courtesy—a courtesy that makes no distinc-

tion as between rich and poor, humble or exalted. Inevitably they will meet with much that is base, coarse, unjust, and untrue— influences that may gradually lower their own standard of conduct. To such influences I hope they will be able to oppose ideals of truth and honour, formed at school, which may long prevent their vision from easily “ fading into the light of common day ”.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

The School Register.

Valete.

Barnett, L. S. (V_B), 1922-27.
Dowdeswell, G. H. (IV_A), 1923-27.

Hodgkinson, S. (IV_A), 1924-27.
Summers, B. J. (III_B), 1924-27.

Salvete.

Birtles, R. (II).
Bomford, R. (II).
Boshier, P. M. (I_A).

Pellow, N. R. (I_B).
Wigley, E. E. (V_B).
Wigley, A. C. (IV_B).
Yates, H. E. (III_A).

Old Scholars' Guild News.

Secretary—K. PERKS. Treasurer—L. SISAM.

A very successful dance was held in the Town Hall on Thursday, April 21st, from 8 till 2. A profit of 17s. 1½d. was made.

The annual tennis match against the School was played on Monday, June 20th. The Guild team consisted of: J. E. Turner and S. Hodgkinson, L. Clark and K. Bomford, S. Gothard and B. Thomas, N. Staff and K. Perks. The Guild won by 71 games to 57.

On the following Monday, June 27th, the Guild played a tennis match against Mr. Wells' team. The Guild was represented by: C. Bunting and M. Thomas, L. Sisam and M. Bomford, R. Jephcott and M. Sisam, S. Wright and W. Beasley. The match resulted in a win for the Guild by 67 games to 61.

This match was followed by an informal outdoor dance. In spite of cold and doubtful weather, about 30 Old Scholars danced to the music of the Alauna Band. A silver collection was taken, and there was a net profit of 12s., which has been paid into the Guild funds. We should all like to thank Mr. Wells for letting us use the School premises, piano, etc.

The Summer Re-union will be held on Saturday, July 23rd, irrespective of weather. There will be tennis and

broomstick cricket in the afternoon, and dancing in the evening. Will Old Scholars please remember that subscriptions (2s. 6d.) for the year 1927-28 should then be paid?

All Old Scholars are invited to the annual cricket match — School v. Old Boys—which will take place at Ragley on July 25th, at 6 p.m. This year we are hoping for a fine evening.

K. P.

Births.

On March 20th, at Bromsgrove, to Mr. and Mrs. K. Sisson—a daughter.

On April 8th, at Oxford, to Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Perks (née Ida Collins)—a son.

On May 26th, at Stratford-on-Avon, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Ore (née Kathleen Smith)—a son.

Marriages.

On April 30th, at Wixford, Arthur James Byrd to Mary Evelyn Adkins (scholar 1912-18).

On June 1st, at Studley, William Jarvis Feast to Mabel Frances Whitehouse (scholar 1914-18).

On June 9th, at Aston Cantlow, Leslie Dowdeswell to Frances Gladys Edkins (scholar 1916-18).

Hard-Boiled Eggs.

My friend, Ing Bjorg, is a fine fellow. Furthermore, he is a Professor of Doxology in the University of Gottförsäkön, and a Vice-President of the Worshipful Community of Stardenhoppers, a sect of the Physiocrats, who have extremely original ideas of food values, and take all their journeys in twopenny stages in case they should suddenly be snatched beyond the reach of the omnipotent Vitamin. The sign-manual of Stardenhopperism is King Vitamin himself, surrounded by his courtiers on one of the original pieces of Stilton Cheese, and every member of the sect is known by the piece of cheese which he carries concealed in the top of his beret. Ing, by the way, is a Swede, though his favourite fruit is the pomegranate.

Last year, during the rainy season, I spent my holiday with Ing among his native fjords. Incidentally, I met Ing's wife—and Ing is a fine fellow. Mrs. Bjorg was the epitome of feminine modernity. As joint-Editress of the "Daily

Female," she set the standard of fashion throughout her circle from the sole of her shoe (which she could hardly walk in, as it was three inches lower in the heel than the last) to the crown of her shapely head, though her Eton crop left scarcely enough brown hair to hide the fact that the original was red. However, she knew all the words a modern woman is supposed to use, and her capacity for loquacious irrelevance was far, far greater than that of any I have ever known.

One fine evening, it being the Festival of the Grand Good-night, we made our way to the Stardenhoppers' Meeting House, though, being a non-member, I was not admitted to the enclosure. When the smoke and powder had cleared away the Worshipful Provost, or Preconcertor, or something, mounted the rostrum. Distinguished from the crowd of devotees by the fact that he wore neither horn-rimmed spectacles nor Russian boots, and spoke Swedish without an Oxford accent, he made an impressive figure in his heliotrope plus-fours and Don Juan side-whiskers. As the strains of "Ave Procrastinator" died away he held up a small nickle-plated hour-glass, and, in a still smaller voice, commenced the Grand Homily or exhortation to the Faithful, a sermon delivered annually for the benefit of such Stardenhoppers as are also publicans or pawnbrokers. My friend Ing, I say, is a fine fellow.

Thus he began: "Brothers, as the policeman constantly moveth us from sundry places, we are ever here to-day and gone to-morrow, and surely as the cold breeze of an English summer bloweth where it listeth, he who looketh through the keyhole of prophecy into the dark workshops of the future shall catch a severe cold in the eye. We know not where to-morrow will lead us, unless it be to the haunts of yesterday; but if experience (bottle or draught) prove sour, henceforth to fresh woods and pastures new. If there be any among you who playeth a ukulele-banjo with a piece of cordite, honour him, for he shall surely rise; if there be any among you that weareth a ten boot, bow down to him, for verily he shall leave deep footprints in the sands of time. 'Things sweet to taste are in digestion sour.' Likewise, 'It is the little daily dose that does it.' Let us eat."

With the eagerness and bustle never heard at the end of anything but a sermon, the congregation rose as one man, and two hundred and fifty of the opposite sex, and passed one by one under the Arch of Love, receiving in transit a hard-boiled egg and a kiss from the Respectful Prevaricator's cousin-in-law (female). This, by the way, was symbolical

of the destruction of 6,000 germs by the application of concentrated vitamin. Screwing my courage to the sticking point, I advanced to receive the oblation and the ablution. A hectic moment, then out into the free air of heaven. Hurriedly I felt in my pocket for the egg. Alas, the Vitamin was feathered.

From that day to this I have seen nothing of Ing. He is a fine fellow. Mrs. Bjorg's handiwork I see and lament daily, but my lamentation, like the lamentation of David, availeth nothing. How are the mighty fallen! Only, the little Vitamin whom I saved from a career of destruction last year in Gottförsäkön has just begun to lay. I eat them hard-boiled to get rid of the flavour of the kiss of the Respectful Prevaricator's cousin-in-law (female).

A. J. P.

The First Original Nonsense Bulletin.

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(With apologies to the B.B.C.)

Here is the atmospheric forecast:

The depression which has been centred over the whole School for the last two terms has at last moved off, and a reactionary spell of agitation and hard work, which will probably last till the end of exams., has set in.

Further Outlook: Very uncertain.

GENERAL NEWS:

It is understood that the General Secretary for Hockey has already had some difficulty in making fixtures for next season, owing to the very early publication of a complete Football Fixture List. Evidently, the annual "Hockey v. football feud" has already begun.

A late message from London stated that a certain member of A.G.S. enjoyed a successful flight to the Metropolis. It is understood that the happy heroine had a warm welcome on her return, after a remarkable descent in one of London's busiest quarters.

Two other flights in the direction of our county town have been arranged to take place shortly, and it is to be hoped that both will be equally successful.

The "Man of Leisure"—well-known in the higher intellectual circles—wishes it to be publicly known that he

is really not in need of any more work for his "leisure" hours.

In spite of the great progress which the League of Nations has recently made, it is reported that a violent engagement has just taken place in a lofty classroom of A.G.S. The combatants themselves were amazed at their own violence, when a desk appeared to be seriously damaged, and general consternation ensued. It is now generally desired that the whole form will join the Pacifist Movement which is on foot among their superiors.

It is interesting to note the growth of the English language. We no longer indulge in the primitive pastimes called "a-hunting" and "a-maying," but we now go "e-clipsing."

Many are the joys of Scouts' Outings! When A.G.S. Scouts went to Cheddar, in addition to the thrill of peering over the edge of a steep cliff with someone sitting on your heels, there were the joys of cracking your head in low-roofed caves, and feeling cooling streams trickle gently down your back.

FOREIGN NEWS. CHINA:

The latest tables show that there have been fewer accidents lately, owing to the continued use of the dinner-waggon.

JERSEY:

Certain inhabitants of Jersey (presumably!) have been causing considerable disturbance by their violent attacks upon the fragile outer walls of the Geography and History Rooms. However, they usually move off quietly without causing any damage.

SPORT:

Tennis. There have been few Wimbledonic displays in the contest for the Gold Medal so far, but a very keen match is expected in the final.

Cricket. We hear much of the "ups and downs" of life, but it would probably be very suitable to describe the fortunes of the A.G.S. Cricket Team in these terms.

SHIPPING FORECAST:

Gale warning--(for "Eclipsers").

It will be inadvisable for visitors to the North Wales coast to enter the sea for bathing, as there may be a breeze freshening behind them.

Sports Day, 1927.

As is our usual good fortune, we were able on June 2nd to carry out our Sports day programme in brilliant sunshine. Although the weather was extremely warm keenness was not lacking, and a number of the events were won only after vigorous competition. Noteworthy among these was the tug-of-war, which, after long and even pulls, was won by the Brownies.

Once again we have to thank Mr. Hall, who organised the races and the preparation of the field with his usual success. All who have attended our Sports will realise how great is the amount of work entailed in the preparation of the field and in the running of the heats.

During the tea interval an exhibition of country dancing was given on the front lawn by the girls, and was very much enjoyed by the spectators. After this Mrs. R. H. Spencer kindly presented the cup, shields, and medals to the successful competitors. Partridge I. is to be congratulated on winning the cup by a considerable majority, while much interest was aroused by the keen competition for the sports shield, which was won by the Jackals by two points. Three hearty cheers for Mrs. Spencer and the singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close, and so another Sports Day passed into the history of the School.

The results of the races were as follow:—

OVER 14.

100 Yards.—1, Partridge i.; 2, Earp; 3, Smith i.; 4, Sisam.
 Half-Mile.—1, Bailey; 2, Summers; 3, Bourne; 4, Griffin.
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Smith i.; 2, Sisam; 3, Masters; 4, Andrews.
 Obstacle Race.—1, Earp; 2, Holder; 3, Partridge i.; 4, Sisam.
 220 Yards.—1, Smith i.; 2, Partridge i.; 3, Summers; 4, Earp.
 Quarter-Mile.—1, Bailey; 2, Bourne; 3, Partridge i.; 4, Savage.
 Hurdle Race.—1, Savage; 2, Sisam; 3, Partridge i.; 4, Earp.
 Consolation Race.—1, Sisam; 2, Griffin; 3, Holder; 4, Sherwood i.
 High Jump.—1, Partridge i.; 2, Savage; 3, Andrews; 4, Sutton.
 Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Earp; 2, Sisam; 3, Bourne.
 Cross-Country Race (five miles).—1, Partridge i.; 2, Earp; 3, Savage; 4, Smith i.

Long Jump.—1, Partridge i.; 2, Sisam; 3, Summers.
 The Mile.—1, Partridge i.; 2, Smith i.; 3, Earp.

12—14.

100 Yards.—1, Purser; 2, Parker; 3, Plevin; 4, Morgan i.
 Half-Mile.—1, Walters ii.; 2, Ison i.; 3, Sherwood ii.; 4, Pinfield.
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Parker; 2, Spencer; 3, Walters ii.; 4, Sherwood ii.
 Obstacle Race.—1, Walters ii.; 2, Plevin; 3, Parker; 4, Lloyd.
 220 Yards.—1, Parker; 2, Plevin; 3, Pinfield; 4, Morgan i.
 Hurdle Race.—1, Parker; 2, Plevin; 3, Ison i.; 4, Hodgkinson i.
 Consolation Race.—1, Sherwood ii.; 2, Pinfield; 3, Lloyd; 4, Hodgkinson i.

High Jump.—1, Ison i.; 2, Purser; 3, Sherwood ii.; 4, Sherwood iii.
Sack Race.—1, Sherwood ii.; 2, Lloyd; 3, Sherwood iii.; 4, Pinfield.
Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Sherwood ii.; 2, Parker; 3, Sherwood iii.

Cross-Country Race (three miles).—1, Purser; 2, Horton; 3, Walters ii.; 4, Sherwood iii.

Long Jump.—1, Parker; 2, Ison i.; 3, Sherwood ii.

UNDER 12.

100 Yards.—1, Morgan ii.; 2, Steele; 3, Sumner; 4, Ison ii.

Obstacle Race.—1, Sumner; 2, Ison ii.; 3, Morton; 4, Corbett.

Egg-and-Spoon Race.—1, Sumner; 2, Corbett; 3, Hodgkinson ii.; 4, Fisher.

Sack Race.—1, Horton; 2, Birtles; 3, Sumner; 4, Fisher.

OTHER EVENTS.

75 Yards (Girls).—1, W. Wright; 2, E. Greenhill; 3, P. Inns; 4, B. Sisam.

Bouncing the Ball (Girls).—1, M. Davis; 2, J. Bourne; 3, R. Antofobus; 4, O. Gwynne Jones.

Tug-of-War.—Brownies beat Jackals.

Relay Race, Three Teams (Girls).—1, Jackals; 2, Brownies; 3, Tomtits.

Dressing for School (Girls).—1, M. Davis; 2, M. Sisam; 3, W. Walters.

Skipping Race (Girls).—1, W. Wright; 2, M. Sisam; 3, P. Inns; 4, D. Sparrow.

Relay Race, Three Teams (Boys).—1, Jackals; 2, Tomtits; 3, Brownies.

TOTALS.

1, Jackals (429); 2, Tomtits (427); 3, Brownies (397).

Sports Day Indoors.

We heartily congratulate the pupils at Alcester Grammar School who, on the morning of June 2nd, were able to concentrate on their respective tasks without permitting one single thought to stray towards the Assembly Hall or the hurdles of the playing field. The clatter of dishes announced that work of a more interesting type was being carried on in other parts of the building, whilst rules seemed to be temporarily relaxed in the corridors. The excitement was certainly not shown by a breathless hush.

Promptly at 2.30 the honoured members of VI and VA took their places at the artistically-arranged stalls, and, with red money bags in hand, awaited the arrival of our guests. We were not disappointed. Old scholars, parents, and friends good-naturedly criticised our work, and although periodically the money bags seemed to disappear in a mysterious manner, whilst the distracted owners sought wildly amongst the tempting piles of peppermint-creams or almond-rocks, we managed to smile complacently even on those well-meaning but thoughtless friends who offered a crisp note for sixpenny-worth of ginger-bread. The boys' cookery was

admired by all, although we hear that it was considered safer by various individuals to make their purchases at the other end of the room. Shrewsbury biscuits, containing caraway seed, are evidently not in vogue.

This year the needlework of each side was arranged on a separate stall. This scheme certainly added to the team spirit of the day, encouraging the less industrious people to work harder in the future. The historical dolls were once again extremely popular; yet the soft toys, ranging from gigantic elephants to woolly balls, helped to take away the monotony of the less interesting needlework exhibits.

As the afternoon wore away the excitement grew. News was brought in occasionally from the Sports Field, and this only tended to make the necessary concentration of the stallholders practically an impossibility.

At last our task was completed, and although slightly fatigued, we were none the less eager to lay aside our official school dress in order to array ourselves in garments suitable for country dancing. It is perhaps unfair for one who took part to criticise the performance. We hope the audience enjoyed themselves. We certainly did. As we concluded our programme with the jolliest country dance—"Sellenger's Round"—our head girl led us into the School to compete in the last unrewarded competition—the Girls' Quick Dress Race.

Once more attired in school dress, we gathered on the girls' playground for the usual presentation of the medals. We congratulate the Tomtits, who have succeeded in retaining the Arts' and Crafts' Shield, but as Jackals we intend to live up to the motto, so well known to those at Alcester Grammar School—"Never say die."

The results of the Arts' and Crafts' Competitions were as follow:—

Tomtits, 861 points (of which the boys scored 137).

Brownies, 731 points (of which the boys scored 147).

Jackals, 584 points (of which the boys scored 75).

The following were awarded Silver Medals in the Arts and Crafts:—

SENIORS.—B. Wells 210, M. Bunn 80, E. Lane 75.

The following were awarded Bronze Medals:—

SENIORS.—M. Thomas 68, B. Bomford 64, M. Lane 59, R. Jackson 55, M. Bomford 45, M. Zambra 44, Scriven 40.

JUNIORS.—M. Inns 52, N. Holder 48, R. Bunting 47, B. Greenhill 43.

B. H.

Eclipse Queries.

Did the failure of the total eclipse to become visible prove such a great disappointment to some of us?

Who performed the longest slide in the descent of Bryn Euryn?

Was the driver awed by our numbers into permitting us to commandeer his tram?

Who secured the most sleep on the double journey?

Did some members of the party *really* not close an eye? And if not, why not?

How many of our travellers walked most of the way to Colwyn Bay?

Was the pallor visible from time to time in (or on) certain faces wholly due to weariness?

What is the best attitude for sleeping in a train?

Is the floor of a compartment quite a bed of roses?

Is lemonade considered a warm drink in Wales?

Why did we neglect to take a collection from the spectators of our recreations on the "Prom."?

Why did a few of one section of the party prefer a cinema to an art gallery?

Is VB in a fair way to produce a *Rip Van Winkle*?

How much solid study was really done on the journey by our seniors?

Why did a number of us persist in getting lost in the streets of Colwyn Bay?

Who awakened a weary member of the staff to make a geographical query?

Is community singing an unqualified success at six in the morning?

Confessions of a Gaz-(m)estre.

“ Pour bien écrire il faut bien penser! ” Certainly, Monsieur —, I do not wish to dispute in any way your famous maxim. After careful and prolonged meditation, and after having sacrificed to the irritability of a disturbed state of mind the ends of several second-hand pencils, and having altogether taken a broad and *humane* view of this very interesting subject, I have come to the conclusion so well expressed by Monsieur le French philosopher, poet, psychologist, logician—or whatever title so distinguished a gentleman might take it into his powdered top-knot to assume—that, when all is said and done, I prefer to bow gracefully to his French eminence and swear most faithfully henceforth to follow in the steps of my illustrious predecessor.

Thus, Monsieur, having acknowledged my debt to your admonitions, and having in fit language (and I sincerely pray that you may find it to your liking) expressed my thanks to you for your inspiring advice, I now aim one higher than even you have done. For does not every ancient dame who plies her darning needle among the socks of yonder young rascals, does not every simple maiden who now vies with her brother in class-room, sports and business life, does not even the small child of these enlightened modern times know that motto of famous memory:

“ Example is better than precept ”?

Planting my faith firmly in the truth of this dictum, I now intend to better the French preacher.

See him in the Jewish synagogue, a Pharisee of dignity and high estate, obtrusively flinging, before the gaping crowd of poverty-stricken onlookers, his bounteous gold into the coffers; see him in the Papal Palace of Fifteenth Century Europe, God’s vicegerent, faithfully performing the arduous task of raising the Papal dignity to complete supremacy in the world, not only spiritual, but also secular. In very sooth such magnificence is the part only of those who have remembered the motto. Thus, oh prophetic sir, do I take up my pen, flourish it with the zest of self-confidence, plunge it into the ink-pot with an eagerness worthy of a heavenly-inspired Shelley, and prepare myself to perform a task greater than thine—to prove the mettle of my ink in the service of your precepts.

“ Penser! Bien penser.” This is the one essential for a really well-written literary production, and since my only aim is to “ bien écrire,” I must now cast myself into the frame—of mind, I mean. (Don’t get alarmed, my nervous

reader, for you must know that I have not as yet formed any serious intention of "committing suicide," "snuffing out," "kicking the bucket," "popping off," "going West," "shuffling off this mortal coil"—whichever idiom appeals most to your sense of the tragic in life—I leave it to you and to your imaginative sensibilities to picture to yourself the as yet rather vague possibilities of such as is your very much life-attached author.) I was saying, if I recall rightly my theme, that it was just about time for me to assume the air of a serious scribe—yes, five or ten minutes ago it was. I agree, but now—well, really, I am beginning to think that I have missed the train of thought I was hoping to catch on to; so I will mercifully dismiss any efforts to bring it back, and will refrain from a prolonged expatiation of my feelings on so dire a subject as missing a train. Only let me add that, on all such occasions it would be wise to practice what I preach, to bear in mind what I have all the way been bearing in mind—that it is always the sign of a great mind to be able to restrain your feelings, and even though you may feel exceptionally inclined to say a lot of things—and, indeed, I will confide it to you, I had far more to say than you may suppose at first sight; in fact, on occasion I have been termed a "gas-bag," though, of course, only by my most intimate acquaintances—well, remember that it is often a far better thing to make a rule to say always as little as possible. Just "think" as hard as you can, and you will accomplish great feats—almost as great feats of forbearance as you have now accomplished. I allude, my dear reader, with my natural modesty, to your patience in perusing this article of doubtful value.

And now, as with a sigh I cast a retrospective eye over the fruits of my efforts at pensiveness, I began to wonder whether, after all, "thinking" has done much to achieve my literary *chef-d'œuvre*. Unhappily for me, and more for you, my gentle reader, that dream has, I fear, some time to await realisation. I must now hasten to apologise for my excessive thought and lack of writing, but you must forgive me, for I have as yet only attained to the first principle—to "bien penser"—the other, I hope, will follow later. Having thus performed a part worthy of Lord Burghley himself—the allusion, as you, my literary associates, will recall, is not to the Cambridge athlete but to Sheridan's critic—I perforce, like so many others before me, must make my bow and retire from the stage of school life, on which, I can assure you, the liveliest comedy in which I have ever taken part still runs.

E. G. L.

Notes and News.

The Annual Speech Day Assembly was held at the Picture House on Thursday, March 24th. The certificates were presented by Mr. O. Moreland (of Kalamazoo Works, Northfield), who gave an address on the subject of "Education as a Preparation for Business."

Miss Baker, who joined the Staff in January, 1926, is leaving us at the end of this term.

Miss A. R. P. Magowan has succeeded Miss Northcote as visiting mistress for Needlework and Cookery.

The Games Subscription this term amounted to £6 15s. 3d.

At a Rummage Sale held at the School early in the term a profit of £10 4s. 1d. was realised.

The Oxford Local Examinations are being held during the fortnight beginning July 12th.

Congratulations to S. Gothard on winning the Birmingham University Heavyweight Boxing Championship for 1927.

The cross-country races were run over the usual courses on April 27th, and the senior race provided an exciting finish between Partridge i. and Earp, the former winning by a few yards.

The football, the annual gift of Mr. Bunting, was awarded to Sisam, and the hockey stick to Margaret Lane.

Hearty congratulations to E. Lane, who has secured an exhibition to Westfield College, and also a scholarship offered by the Drapers' Company.

On the evening of Tuesday, June 28th, a large party from School entrained for Colwyn Bay for the purpose of viewing the total eclipse. An impression of the excursion appears on another page.

In the final of the Gold Medal Competition, E. Lane beat B. Wells 6-1, 4-6, 6-0.

CORRECTION.—In the March issue of the RECORD we stated that L. Smith was captain of the Brownies; we should have said "of the Jackals".

The following weather observations have been recorded:—

	May.	June
Highest Temperature	72° F.	70° F.
Lowest Temperature	38° F.	45° F.
Average Temperature	53.8° F.	57.6° F.
Average Pressure	30.0 ins.	29.9 ins.
Rainfall	.879 ins.	2.15 ins.
Rain Fell on	6 days	16 days

So Early in the Morning.

“ Oft expectation fails, and most oft
Where most it promises.”

So remarked our distinguished poet. And as I experienced the thrill of standing in the soaking rain on a hill which overlooked Colwyn Bay, I murmured to myself, “ The labour we delight in physics pain.” But whether or not all our stiff-kneed or unscientific would-be gazers on the eclipse delighted in sliding up and down a slippery precipice at half-past five on a real North Wales morning I cannot tell; I leave it to your vivid imagination.

“ What went ye out for to see? ” We saw it not—I crave pardon. we saw something—corona, moon, or sun itself, I know not; but I do know that, at the early hour of 6.20 a.m., there was an uncanny twilight, with none of the qualities which make a twilight beautiful. Green fields grew wan and pallid, and it seemed as if the whole earth was smitten with a mortal sickness. Down in the town beneath motor cars flashed on their lights, and dogs ceased to bark. Everything was hushed, and the nervous-sounding twitter of a bird in the trees merely served to emphasise the stillness of a few seconds.

We must not say that the eclipse trip was a failure. We had struck out, well sustained, for the highest ground, and we were greatly amused at the astronomers carrying what we thought were opera-glasses to view what was then a mass of misty grey. There on the heights were men, women, and children and the eternal flapper, of course, sky-gazing in vain, with as intense an enthusiasm as she gazes at everything else. But, having stumbled and scrambled to the summit of the precipice, we stood in a driving rain, and what could we do but gaze enthusiastically at a dark and dismal horizon?

Some zealous spirits of our party raised their voices in song, and encouraged us to “ Pack up your troubles ” for

"There is a tavern in the town"; and somewhat refreshed—by the rain, of course—we retraced our steps, partly sliding, partly rolling down the almost perpendicular hill-side, and reached the longed-for "Tavern," where we eagerly attacked our eggs and bacon.

At nine-thirty we were all packed in the train for Birmingham, leaving behind the beautiful Colwyn Bay with no little regret, though tired legs were tormenting us and sleepiness was overpowering. Some of our party endeavoured to sleep, and one or two actually did sleep, so I believe.

"Weariness can snore on flint
When resty sloth finds the down pillow hard."

Though by no means sorry to reach Alcester once again, we must admit that our journeying had been most enjoyable; and, in spite of clouds and rain, we had found a great deal of pleasure.

The Scout Outing.

The third of June was a day to which all the Scouts had been looking forward for several weeks. On this particular morning there was not the usual anxious scanning of the heavens and consulting barometers, for we had to parade at six forty-five o'clock sharp, and consequently the period between "reveille" and "fall in" was entirely occupied in devouring breakfast and in breaking the record to school, where we immediately proceeded to finish dressing. It is rumoured that at least one Scout was seen doing a steady half-mile up the Priory grasping a haversack, kneckerchief, and hat in one hand, and endeavouring to button up his shirt with the other.

At last we were a complete party, and we cruised off at seven o'clock for our two-hundred-mile ride. Nothing of interest occurred until we had left Cheltenham behind. Then we began to climb rapidly, obtaining a very fine view to the north. The next place of interest was the famous Birdlip Hill, down which we were all most anxious to go. But our driver had other ideas, and we turned off just at the crucial moment, and sped along through Stroud to Bath.

Having arrived at Bath we divided into two sections, the one to visit the Roman Baths, the other to stay in the char-a-banc until we returned. We were conducted over the baths by an attendant, who remarked on the scarcity of note-books. He was speedily informed that we did not work when on holiday. P. L. Peewits distinguished himself by

giving a required date after P. L. Kangaroos had gone on strike and refused the information. After a hurried departure from a steam bath we were pleased to regain the open air. On returning to our char-a-banc some of the second party were missing, nor did they show themselves up for a little time. They eventually turned up at the double, having spent the best part of an hour in Woolworth's. As they had nothing to show, their visit is shrouded in mystery, which has not yet been cleared up.

We now awakened to the fact that we had fasted for quite four hours, and the journey from Bath to Cheddar was occupied in remedying the matter. Arriving at the entrance to the gorge, we packed up what remained of our lunch and sat back to enjoy the scenery. Just as we entered the village we were photographed, and prints of this we obtained later in the day.

Disembarking, we paid our visit to Cox's Cave, again dividing into two parties, and were conducted round. Our guide, illuminating a hole about as large as a soccer ball, solemnly informed us that Mr. Cox had fallen through there and thus discovered the cave. After our explorations below the ground we dispersed in different directions. Some climbed the cliffs, others patronising the inevitable tuck shop. One party discovered a small cave half-way up the cliffs, and proceeded to explore it. The roof, however, took advantage of their having no light, and badly misused them. They thereupon decided that "pop" and doughnuts suited them better, and they descended in a rapid though undignified manner on the seat of learning. Another party climbed to the highest point and obtained a fine view, including the Bristol Channel and the Welsh mountains.

Then came the ever welcome tea-time, when, as was only to be expected, everyone was more than punctual. While we were waiting for tea Mr. Druller took some snapshots, which we anticipate will be rather interesting. Nothing unusual occurred during tea, although the S.M. 1st A.G.S. grew anxious upon discovering that every Scout, without exception, had disposed of at least three cups of tea.

The return journey, via Bristol and Gloucester, was commenced with a little community singing, but aerated waters are not conducive to singing, good or bad, and the effort soon "fizzled out." Little of interest was to be noticed on the way, though in the vicinity of Bristol the shipping and the suspension bridge caused some comment. Indeed, from now onwards the journey became cold, and our

attentions were directed towards keeping warm. At Tewkesbury a distinguished member of the Owls, who is well-known for his prowess at football matches (after the game!), asked if we might stop, as he was famished and had no provisions left. There was a general exodus to all the shops in the neighbourhood. We had scarcely moved off again when loud shouts and muttered imprecations arose from the back seats. A fried fish shop had been raided, and copious helpings had been brought away. Moreover, the said fish was clearly saturated with forty horse-power vinegar of the foulest kind. Noses were thrust deeply into Scout hats, and the journey for some time lost all interest for several miles. Then Mr. Hutton started some community singing, which was kept up until a cloudburst at Harvington cut us short.

We were all very sorry when we reached Alcester after a most enjoyable day's outing. It is no exaggeration to say that it is the finest outing we have ever had. If the S.M. 1st A.G.S. wants to better it he will need to do some very hard thinking, while the coffers will have to be full to overflowing.

P. L. PEACOCK.

Cricket.

So far this season the results of our matches have proved extremely gratifying, one welcome feature being the even distribution of the scores throughout the side. Save for a few dropped catches, the fielding has left little to be desired, while the bowling has been almost entirely in the hands of Summers and Sisam, who have invariably proved equal to the occasion. The results to date are as follow:—

				For Agst.
May 21	v. Redditch S.S.	...	(home)	75 ... 57
June 4	v. Stratford K.E.G.S.	...	(away)	78 ... 74
,, 11	v. King's Norton S.S.	...	(home)	83 ... 51
,, 18	v. Temple Grafton	...	(away)	105 ... 53
,, 22	v. Stratford K.E.G.S.	...	(home)	53 ... 116
,, 25	v. Temple Grafton	...	(away)	88 ... 42
,, 27	v. B'ham Univ. Students XI.	(home)		52 ... 37

A. J. P.

Tennis, 1927.

After a few luxuriously fine days at the beginning of the term, tennis has been considerably marred by rain this season. As far as matches are concerned, that of the VITH against VA and VB—as is quite unnecessary for me to say—was very much enjoyed by all present, and ended in a

victory for the Seniors. The Old Scholars were successful against the School in a very enjoyable match on June 20th. The Gold Medal Competition has been delayed by bad weather, but we hope to finish it comfortably before the end of term. So far, E. Lane, B. Wells, and M. Lane have reached the semi-final stage, while M. Thomas and O. Lane have still to play in the previous round. The Girls' Tennis Tournament was to have taken place on Saturday, July 2nd, but had to be postponed for a week.

E. G. L.

Football Season, 1926-27.

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
23	4	18	1

The following boys represented the School most frequently:—Partridge i., Earp, Brewer, Summers i., Sisam, Scriven, Barnett, Savage, Howard, Sherwood i., Sherwood ii., Parker, Bailey, Andrews, Bourne, and Horton.

Hockey Season, 1926-27.

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.
12	10	1	1

The School was represented by:—E. Lane, B. Wells, L. Smith, B. Bomford, E. Holder, M. Lane, A. Lloyd, M. Bomford, A. Lane, S. Hodgkinson, E. Wood, R. Bunting, M. Thomas, and K. Williams.

For the Juniors.

What the Moon Saw.

It was the last day of the Summer term, and all the mice were peeping out of their holes, watching us shake hands with the Masters and Mistresses.

“ I am glad those noisy things are going, aren’t you? ” said one.

“ Yes, ” said the other. “ We will have some fun to-night. ”

In the night they all gathered in the Hall, and had a fine time. Some brought dusters from Mr. Ankcorn’s cupboard, some brought bits of bread, some brought bits of cheese, and others a bit of paper that had had someone’s lunch in it.

In the middle of it Mrs. Wells’ cat came in and hustled them away.

But the next night they came again, and had a lovely time.

D. P.

Fairy Mab's Birthday Party.

The fairy Mab had a birthday party. The elves came first with the band. Then the fairy Mab stepped in with all her lovely wands and wings. Next came the other elves, with their little bells tied on to their hands. Then the man who looked after the ballroom came in and said what dances they were going to have, but I cannot remember them all. Then all the guests arrived.

There was a stage, and the actors came and acted "Cinderella" and then "Little Bo-Peep." Then the curtain went down. When the curtain went up there was acting of a tea-party.

The King of the fairies came, and thought the ballroom was very pretty indeed. The carpet was rose leaves sewn together with bluebells and poppies. On the wall there were poppy petals sewn all round. It was lit up with fairy lights. On the ceiling were hanging fairy lanterns.

The King said that he would marry the lady who had given such a lovely party. The lady Mab came, and said that she would marry the King to-morrow.

Then the elf rang a bell, and gave the fairy Mab two boxes; these were birthday presents from all the elves. Inside one there were four little white mice—mother, father, and two children—and in the other box were two little canaries. Then the fairy Mab thanked everybody for the presents, and said that there would be another party to-morrow night.

Next night fairy Mab put on her very best clothes. She wore a gold frock and over that a silver veil, and her crown was a nice round bluebell one, with little stars on it. She wore dainty shoes with roses tied on. The King wore his gold crown with pansies all round. A little elf in a crimson cloak married the beautiful fairy Mab to the fairy King. The King put a gold ring on fairy Mab's finger.

Then Queen Mab waved her wand, and a fairy palace came into Fairyland, with a golden river round it and a drawbridge. When she waved her wand the drawbridge was pulled up. And that is where fairy Mab and the King lived.

ROBERT HILLER (AGE 6).